

JOB COMPLETION REPORT  
INVESTIGATIONS PROJECTS

State of Montana

Project No. F-7-R Work Plan No. I Job No. I-A

Title of Job: Contribution of Hatchery Reared Trout to Total Catch

Objectives:

It is important to know the contribution of hatchery trout to the anglers creel. There are no data of this kind for this area, and very little for the state as a whole. It is desired to learn, not the total return of hatchery fish to creel, but the relative contribution of hatchery plants to the catch.

Techniques Used:

Cedar Creek was selected because of its popularity as a fishing stream. A total of 4,182 cutthroat trout (3 - 5 inches) were fin-clipped on May 19, 1952 (right ventral fin removed) at the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service Fish Hatchery, Creston, Montana. They were planted the following day along a two-mile portion of the stream that parallels the road.

Findings:

Cedar Creek is a small stream about 1/2 mile north of Columbia Falls. Figure 1. A rough measurement of the volume of water on May 20, was approximately 12,000 gallons per minute. The stream banks are brushy and the surrounding terrain is hilly with a dense cover of coniferous forest.

As the proper size trout were not available in 1951, no fish were planted last year. No data is available on catch as yet.

Analysis and Recommendations:

It is recommended that this study be continued.

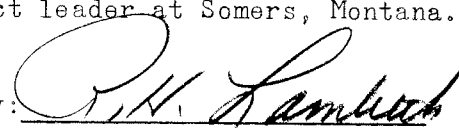
Summary:

A popular fishing stream was selected and 4,182 (3 to 5 inch) fin-clipped cutthroat trout were planted.

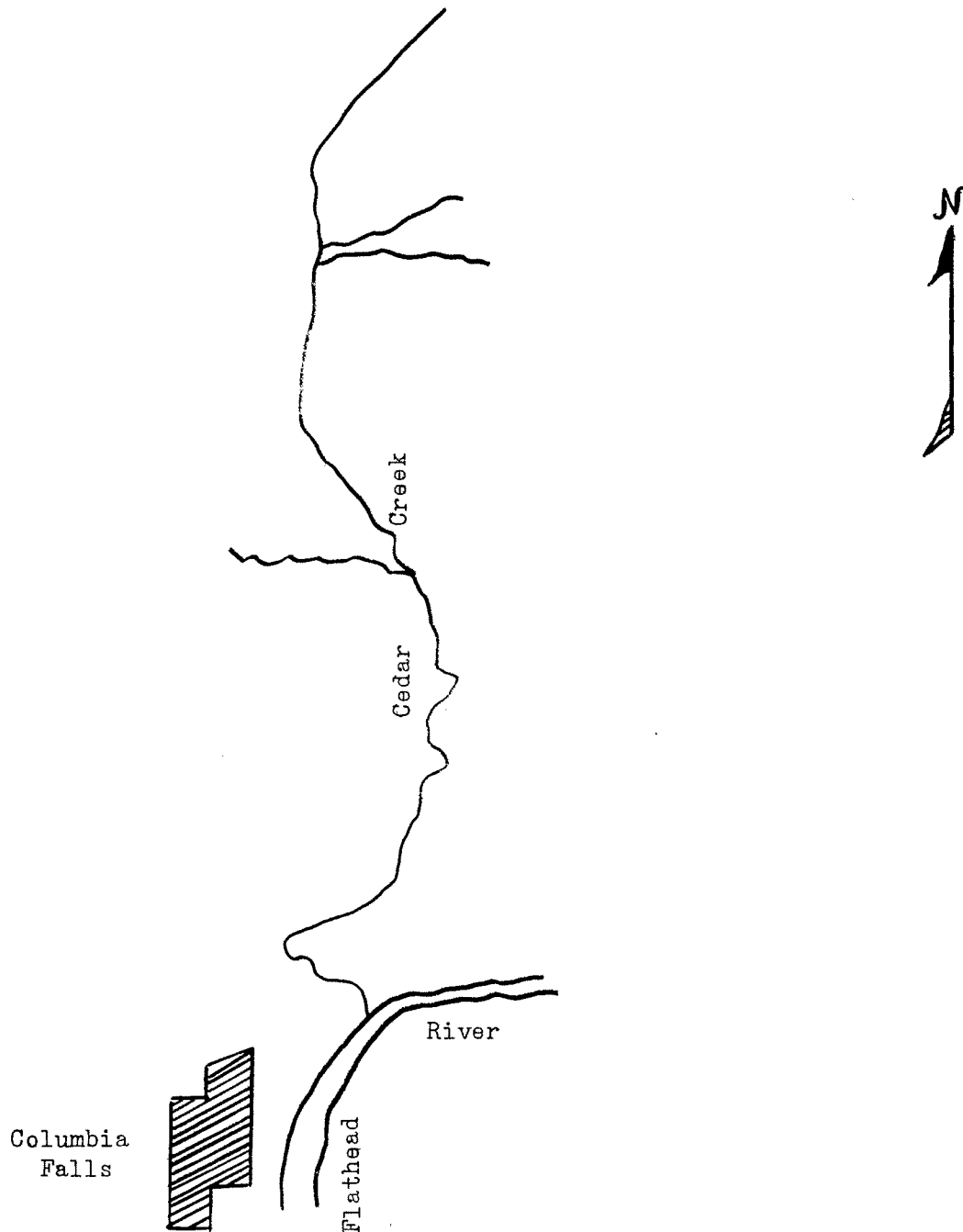
Data and Reports:

The data and related reports are with the project leader at Somers, Montana.

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Approved by: 

Date: June 30, 1952



Cedar Creek

Flathead County, Montana

Scale:  $\frac{1}{2}$ " to the mile